United Nations S/AC.44/2004/(02)/70/Add.2

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 October 2005

Original: English

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 29 September 2005 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Committee of the Security Council established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and, with reference to the note of the Chairman dated 15 June 2005, and pursuant to the note of the Chairman dated 26 August 2005, has the honour to transmit a copy of the second report of the Syrian Arab Republic relating to the restriction of the use of radioactive materials, securing and transporting them, and imposing fines on those who try to illegally obtain nuclear or radioactive materials (see annex).

05-55085 (E) 191005 191005

Annex to the note verbale dated 29 September 2005 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

[Original: Arabic]

Second national report of the Syrian Arab Republic pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

The Syrian Arab Republic affirms that Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) was a step in the right direction towards safeguarding international peace and security and points out that it was one of the first countries to sign, by legislative decree No. 169 of 5 August 1969, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). It still considers that the NPT is an essential basis for continuing the process of disarmament and eliminating the spectre of nuclear war. Its accession to the Treaty stemmed from its desire to ensure transparency in this field and its conviction that the possession of such destructive weapons by any State in the Middle East, or their falling into the hands of some States and not others or of terrorist non-governmental bodies, represented an enormous threat and source of anxiety not only to the peoples of the region but also of the entire world.

As confirmation of its good intentions, the Syrian Arab Republic, has, since 1992, been bound by an international commitment to implement the provisions of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as well as by numerous international instruments and resolutions, and by international legislation and procedures in force, to exchange information and ensure coordination in that connection and at all levels in order to achieve international security and peace.

The Syrian Arab Republic is still waiting for the Security Council to give serious consideration to the initiative for ridding the Middle East region of weapons of mass destruction, principally nuclear weapons, that is before it "in blue" and which, in order to promote support for the concept of international security and peace, Syria submitted on behalf of the Arab Group in April 2003, and which it reconfirmed in December 2003. Syria declared that time before the international community that it would contribute effectively, together with its Arab brothers and with other peace-loving nations of the world, towards making the Middle East a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. However, consideration of the initiative was deferred until such time as the international situation became favourable.

With respect to the handling of chemical and biological materials employed in various peaceful applications, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has continued to promulgate the required measures to regulate the handling of such substances in order to prevent their falling into the hands of non-governmental bodies. We point out once again that in 1972 the Syrian Arab Republic signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and is also a party to most of the conventions on the management of chemicals and hazardous waste, including the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary

Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (since 1992), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (since 2002) and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (since 2003). All these instruments relate to the prohibition of the production of and trade in chemical substances and hazardous wastes known for their toxic properties, their resistance to decomposition, their biological accumulation, their transboundary dispersal over considerable distances by air and water and by various kinds of migration. They form an integrated legal framework for the integral management of chemicals and hazardous wastes. The Syrian Arab Republic has also committed itself to the national chemical safety plan which incorporates an action plan for improving the management of chemical substances in Syria by means of a number of measures consistent with international requirements.

Since 1987, the Syrian Arab Republic, desiring to combat any form of illegal trafficking, has been controlling the movement of nuclear and radioactive substances at all its land, sea and air entry/exit points in accordance with national rules, legislation and regulations which have the force of law and are based on the international norms and regulations on nuclear energy issued by IAEA, particularly in respect of the system of reporting, registering, licensing and monitoring all radioactive and nuclear materials and equipment arriving in and exiting from the Syrian Arab Republic and used for peaceful purposes.

The competent national authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic have been studying the final draft of the code for the safe handling and security of all nuclear and radioactive materials. This draft code, which is now in the final stages of review, will cover the relevant directives, procedures and legislation and will specify severe penalties to be imposed on any person violating such legislation and directives.

As far as dealing in any type of weapons is concerned, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic imposes severe penalties ranging from a term of imprisonment to a monetary fine, the duration or amount of which, respectively, is determined in accordance with national regulations and the rules provided in local legislation, on anyone dealing in such weapons either illegally or without having previously obtained official licences issued by the approved governmental agencies. The licences cover all aspects of such dealing, including the import, export, illegal trading, production, distribution, transport, transit, repair, bearing and possession of weapons.

The Syrian Arab Republic is still of the opinion — within the framework of the final document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT, which called on the Secretary-General of the United Nations to follow a specific mechanism reflecting anxiety and concerns over the current situation in the Middle East — that intensive international efforts must be made to set up an effective mechanism for the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the NPT and that it has become a matter of urgent necessity to exert pressure on Israel to accede to the NPT and to subject all its nuclear installations to international inspection by IAEA, particularly following reports in the news media concerning the Israeli installations that are outside any international monitoring and the expectation of an

environmental disaster in the region as a result of radiation leaks from them as in the case, for example, of the Dimona reactor.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic adheres scrupulously to all its international commitments and agreements regarding such matters and is moving forward with the development and enhancement of its national monitoring and regulation programmes.

It calls on the international community to give up the selective policy and the use of double standards on the questions of terrorism and the right of peoples to struggle against foreign occupation and to give careful consideration to the legitimate concern, and the growing fear, among the people of the region concerning the existence of Israel's nuclear military capabilities which are hindering the attainment of regional and international security and peace, and to impose the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.